



# State Representative Sean Williams

Dear Friends,

It continues to be an honor and a privilege to serve as the state representative for the 68<sup>th</sup> House District in the House of Representatives.

This Annual Report covers the state budget, and a number of critical issues we addressed during the 2006 legislative session.

As always, if you have any questions or comments concerning the 2006 session, please contact my office at any time.

Sincerely,



Representative Williams meets with Governor Jodi Rell as she arrives for a visit at Swift Junior High School in Oakville.

*Photo Courtesy of the Town Times*

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State Representative  
**SEAN WILLIAMS**  
Proudly Serving the 68<sup>th</sup> District  
Watertown ★ Oakville ★ Woodbury



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# 2006 LEGISLATIVE REPORT



State Representative  
**SEAN WILLIAMS**  
Proudly Serving the 68<sup>th</sup> District  
Watertown ★ Oakville ★ Woodbury



## State Representative Sean Williams

### 2006 Annual Legislative Report



## The State Budget

By the end of this session the General Assembly had approved a \$16 billion state budget that represented a compromise between legislative Democrats and Governor M. Jodi Rell and legislative Republicans.

The deal includes a phased-out repeal of the corporate surcharge, which many of my colleagues and I have fought for since the beginning of the legislative session. It also includes a number of tax cuts for business which will help improve the economy and increase jobs in the state, such as a phase out of the property tax on machinery and equipment.

We also increased deposits in the Rainy Day Fund from the Democrats' proposed \$39 million to \$190 million, which boosts the fund to \$800 million. The budget deal also fully funds the Teachers' Pension Fund, which has been repeatedly shortchanged by majority Democrats to fuel other spending projects. The final budget is also under the constitutionally mandated spending cap in both years.

## Jobs for the 21st Century

This year I co-sponsored a jobs bill that aims at improving Connecticut's stagnant economy, and increasing jobs in the state. As a member of the Commerce Committee, I helped usher this bill to the House floor. House Republicans offered a handful of amendments which would have improved the bill. One such amendment would require that the General Assembly's non-partisan Office of Fiscal Analysis prepare an economic impact statement on bills that would impact businesses in the state. Another would have sped up the property tax relief in the bill for manufacturing equipment, which is scheduled to phase out over five years. The amendments were defeated on a mostly party-line vote.



Rep. Williams talks to children at Watertown's Heminway Park School as they kick off a program where they learned about proper nutrition, exercise and healthy living.

## The Cost of Energy

Despite a 22% increase on ratepayers having been implemented this year, and power consumers continuing to be gouged by rising costs, the legislative majority blocked a proposal by House Republicans that would have reduced the public utilities gross earning tax on electric and power companies. I supported this proposal that would have reduced the residential rate from 6.8% to 4.0%, and the commercial rate from 8.5% to 5.0%. It would have also reduced the gross earnings tax by 41%, and saved ratepayers roughly \$60 million annually. Unfortunately the proposal was defeated on a party-line vote.

There were also attempts to address the spiking cost of gasoline including the temporary repeal of the 25 cents a gallon state gasoline tax between Memorial Day and Labor Day. These proposals were also defeated by the majority despite a nearly \$700 million budget surplus.

## For Seniors/Veterans/Healthcare

A new law allows towns to freeze property taxes on homes owned by people age 70 or older. Homeowner-companion agencies must now register with the Department of Consumer Protection and employees must undergo background checks. Legislation will protect jobs and finances of National Guard members who are called up for state service such as a natural disasters, just as they would if called up for national service. The legislature updated Connecticut law on end of life decisions, hospital-acquired infections and umbilical cord blood banking.

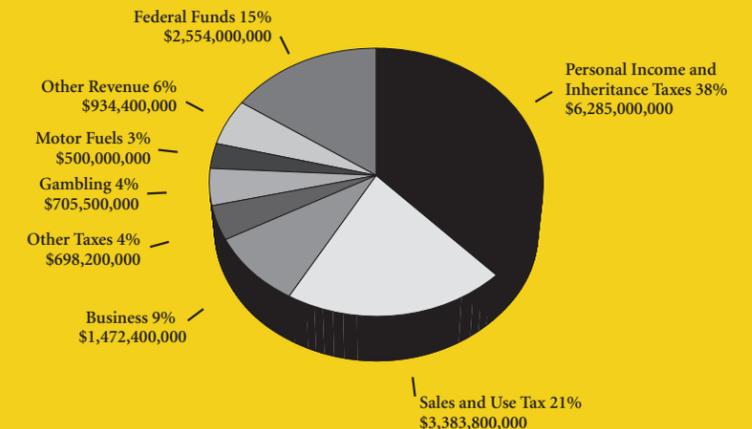
## Transportation

The traffic congestion Connecticut has endured not only creates annoying commutes, but it kills jobs and the economy. This year the General Assembly committed \$2.3 billion to expand rail services and improve Connecticut's highways and roads.

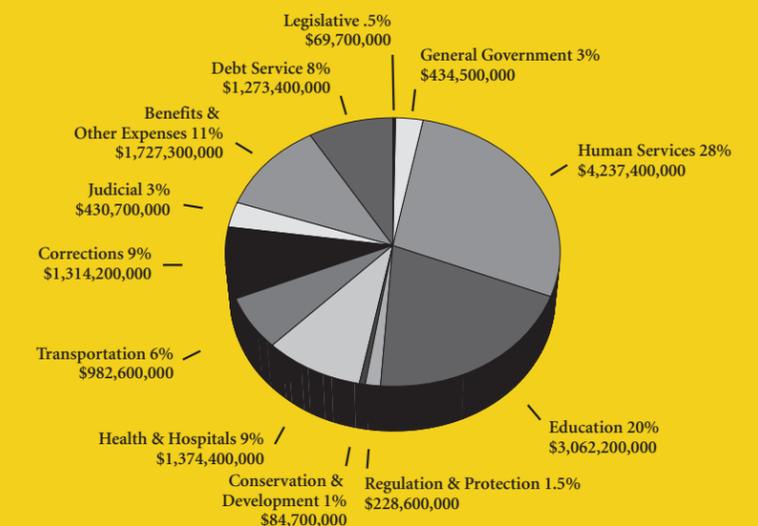
## BUDGET ENDING JUNE 30, 2006

The 2006 general fund and the special transportation fund spends \$15.2 billion.

### WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM?



### WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?



\*In addition to an expected surplus, the difference between expenditures and revenues is due to tax refunds.

## CONNECTICUT RESIDENTS WORK 132 DAYS OUT OF THE YEAR JUST TO PAY THEIR TAXES

Connecticut



May 12

National Avg.



Apr. 26

Alabama



Apr. 11

Jan. Feb. Mar. Apr. May. Jun. Jul.

“Lowering your tax burden is a top priority of mine.”